



Fact Sheet

Concert Band

The United States Air Force *United States Air Force Band of Mid-America* is the principal musical ambassador of the Air Mobility Command. This diverse group of musicians has a heritage of performing many styles of music for people from all walks of life.

The roots of the *United States Air Force Band of Mid-America* reach back to 1942 at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. In 1960, the band began a long career at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois as the representative of the Military Air Transport Service and the Military Airlift Command, both predecessors of the Air Mobility Command. Concert Band programs are drawn from the established masterworks of the concert repertoire, as well as the works of notable contemporary composers. The Concert Band has worked under the baton of Dr. Frederick Fennell, founder of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. The band has also performed with Tex Benecke, trombonist Bill Porter, drummers Joe Morello and Steve Houghton, and vocalist Dr. William Warfield. Throughout the years, the *United States Air Force Band of Mid-America* has performed current popular styles, jazz, marches, concert and patriotic music for literally millions of listeners.

The *United States Air Force Band of Mid-America* performs primarily for audiences in the Midwest, but also for people throughout many portions of the United States, Central and South America, the Caribbean and the Azores. The Concert Band can be heard in an evening concert or on a summer afternoon in the park. The Marching Band can be seen by thousands of faces lining the streets for a parade. Many people hear our Shades of Blue Jazz Ensemble at universities and jazz festivals; our popular music combo, Blue Thunder, playing for students at high schools; or our variety show group, Starlifter, performing at military ceremonies and official functions.

Whether performing for a crowd of enthusiastic teenagers in an amphitheater in Guatemala City, or for a packed civic auditorium in northern Wisconsin, the *United States Air Force Band of Mid-America* reflects the heritage and pride of the United States and the United States Air Force.